

SAFETY

IN NUMBERS

Impaired driving affects you, even if you are not the one drinking and driving

More than a third of the people killed when an alcohol-impaired-driver* crashes are **not** the impaired drivers.

In 2011, 9,878 people lost their lives because of drunk driving. These people make up one-third (31%) of all motor vehicle crash fatalities in the United States. The total number of people killed in motor vehicle crashes has fallen, but the proportion of those fatalities that are from drunk-driving crashes has remained the same for the past 10 years.

Our attitudes on impaired driving have changed but we still have room for improvement. Forty years ago in a roadside survey of drivers, almost 1 in 12 (8%) were driving drunk. The most recent data (2007) from the same survey shows that rate is down to 1 in 50 (2%), which is good progress. Those impaired drivers still claim the lives of nearly 10,000 people a year – and one-third are their passengers, occupants of other vehicles, pedestrians, or bicyclists. Drunk drivers cost our economy nearly \$60 billion a year (*Economic Impact of Crashes 2000*).

These are preventable crashes, easily within our control by making better decisions as drivers, passengers, and friends.

*Drivers are considered to be alcohol-impaired when their blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is .08 g/dL or higher, the illegal per se alcohol limit in every State. Drivers under the age of 21 may not drive after consuming any alcohol because of Zero Tolerance Laws and may be arrested or cited for driving at BACs below .08 in every State.

For more information and
media material you can download, visit:
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*Other people who
died in alcohol crashes:*



1,612

*were passengers of
drivers with BACs .08+*



1,049

*were occupants
of other vehicles*



710

*were pedestrians
or bicyclists*



91

*were child passengers
of drivers with BACs .08+*



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

★★★★★
NHTSA
www.nhtsa.gov

THE PROBLEM

COSTS OF A DWI

Driving while impaired (DWI) is a serious offense that carries serious penalties and costs. Drivers arrested for DWI face jail time, heavy fines, loss of their driver licenses, and higher insurance rates for many years.

You may pay to have your car towed and subsequent storage fees. Your license will likely be suspended, which may make getting to your job or school difficult. You may have to complete and pay for alcohol evaluation, education, and treatment programs, and perform community service. If a judge orders an alcohol ignition interlock system, you may pay for the device plus a monthly fee. If you hire a lawyer, you will have those costs, too. Some States have higher fines for young drivers and escalating penalties for multiple convictions. A DWI conviction will follow you for many years and may affect school and job applications.

Total DWI costs range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 for a first offense — \$10,000 is the estimated average across the country. If you cause a crash, injury, or death, the costs may be significantly higher. Your State's DMV website will have the penalties for your State.

What data tells us

- America's 212 million licensed drivers crashed over 5.3 million times, injured 2.2 million people and killed 32,367 people in 2011.
- Each day, 27 people died in alcohol-impaired crashes, one every hour (*Overview, Traffic Safety Facts*, 2011 data, www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811753.pdf).
- Two-thirds (66%) of the 9,878 people who died in drunk driving crashes in 2011 were drivers or motorcyclists with BACs of .08 or higher.
- The overall number of fatalities in alcohol-impaired crashes went down in 2011 but the number of alcohol-impaired motorcycle drivers in fatal crashes went up by 9%, the only driver class to rise. Motorcycles also had the highest percentage (29%) of alcohol-impaired drivers of all vehicle types (24% of passenger car drivers were alcohol-impaired, 21% of light-truck drivers, 1% of large-truck drivers).
- About 1 in 6 (16%) of those killed in impaired-driving crashes were passengers riding with drivers whose BACs were .08 or higher; almost 2 in 10 either were riding in other vehicles (11%) or were pedestrians or bicyclists (7%) when they died (*Alcohol-Impaired Driving, Traffic Safety Facts*, 2011 data, www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811700.pdf).
- Half (50%) of the 181 children under 14 who were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes were riding with drunk drivers (*Children, Traffic Safety Facts*, 2011 data, www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811767.pdf).
- According to NHTSA's National Roadside Survey, most of the designated drivers measured zero BAC, but 1 in 6 (16%) were alcohol positive and 2 percent were above the illegal limit. Weekends and nights are the most prevalent times for impaired driving (*Results of the 2007 National Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drug Use by Drivers*, <http://ntl.bts.gov/lib/31000/31600/31643/811248.pdf>).

What people tell us

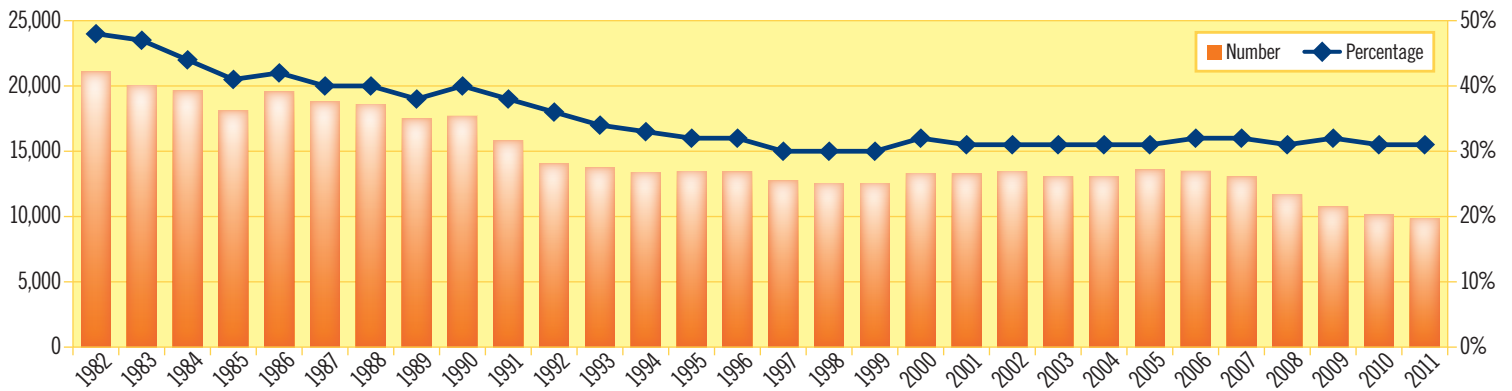
- According to NHTSA's most recent national telephone survey about drinking and driving (*National Survey of Drinking and Driving Attitudes and Behaviors*, www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/traffic_tech/tt392.pdf), most drivers say they take action to avoid driving impaired. Half (53%) of drinking drivers who felt they had too much to drink avoided driving at least once in the past year. They said they used a designated driver, rode with another person, called a cab, or slept over.
- Almost 1 in 12 (8%) of the population, or 17.2 million drivers, said they rode with a driver they thought may have consumed too much alcohol to drive safely in the past year. Young males (24%) were 3 times more likely to do this.
- Among those who hosted a social event that served alcohol in the past year, 3 in 4 (72%) said they took action to prevent guests from drinking too much or driving after drinking.
- Among those who were the designated drivers, however, more than 1 in 8 (12%) said they made the decision to be the designated driver after the drinking had begun.

How to keep the pressure on

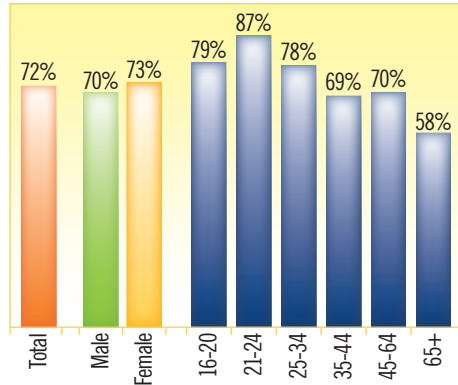
NHTSA's high-visibility enforcement model keeps the pressure on drivers and motorcyclists to choose another way home if they have had too much alcohol to drive or ride safely. It works by increasing the risk of detection and arrest for those who choose to drive over the illegal limit (*Increasing Impaired-Driving Enforcement Visibility: Six Case Studies*, www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811716.pdf, and *Drunk Driving National Enforcement Crackdown Products for Enforcement Action Kit [PEAK]*, www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov/LaborDay2013/PEAK).

THE FACTS

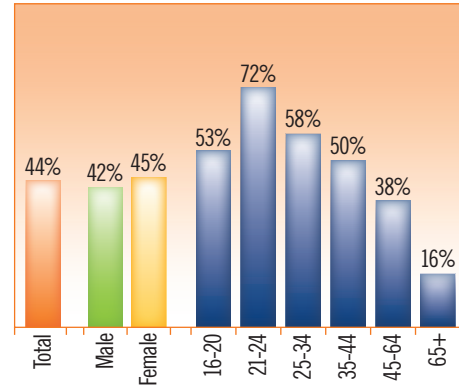
Alcohol-Impaired Driving (BAC=.08+) Motor Vehicle Fatalities, 1982-2011



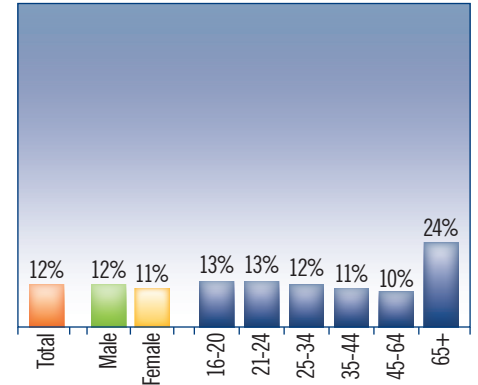
Hosts who took action to prevent guests from driving after drinking too much, by sex and age, NHTSA, 2008



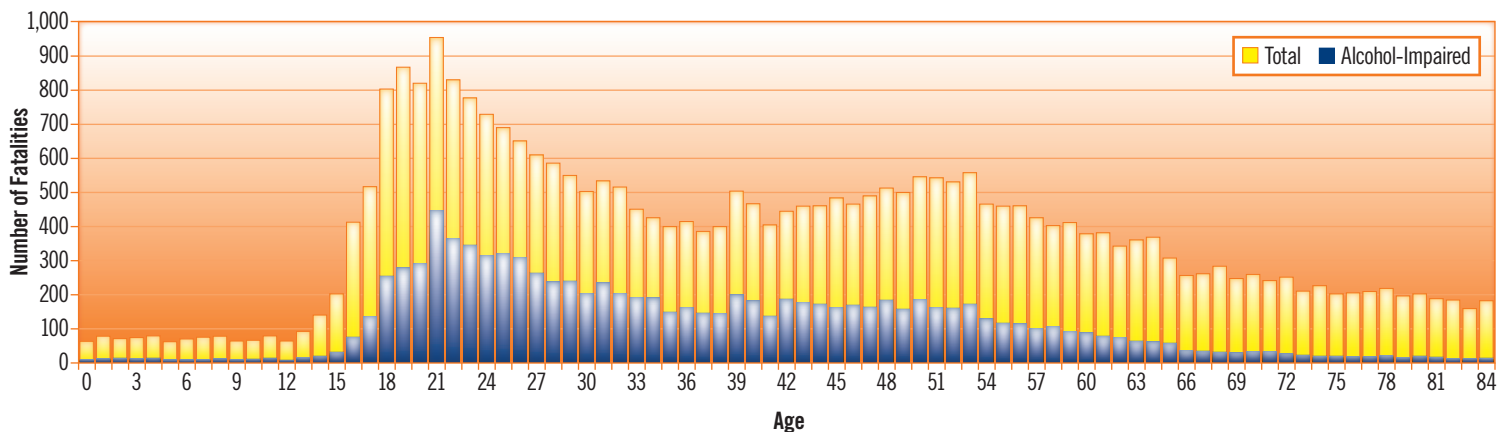
Have been the designated driver in the past year, by sex and age



Decided to be the designated driver after began drinking, by sex and age



Total and Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities by Age, 2011



WHAT YOU CAN DO

We know what works

NHTSA's *Countermeasures That Work* recommends effective actions that communities can take to reduce alcohol-impaired driving (www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811727.pdf).

Drivers and passengers can

- Designate a sober driver for your group before the drinking begins.
- If you do not have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home, call a friend to come get you, stay where you are for the night, or call a cab. Use your phone's apps to find safe rides home. Make the plans in advance, not as you are leaving.
- Never accept a ride with an impaired driver and don't let your friends drive drunk.
- Wear your seat belt; it is your best defense in a crash. Be alert for impaired drivers at night and on weekends.
- Learn more about how alcohol affects your ability to drive (*The ABCs of BAC*, www.nhtsa.gov/links/sid/ABCsBACWeb/page2.htm).

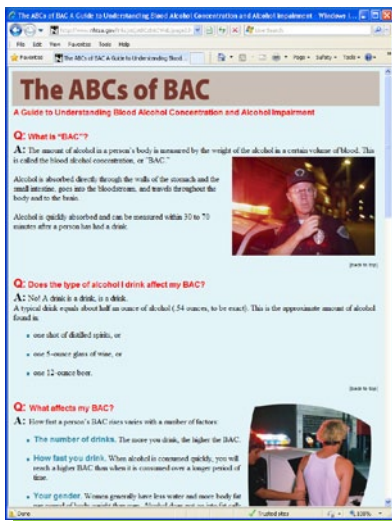
Motorcyclists can

- Understand that riding a motorcycle requires greater skills than driving a car, and even low levels of alcohol affect your balance and coordination – two essential riding skills.
- Plan an alternate ride home, in advance. Call a friend to take you and your

bike home or find a place to store your motorcycle. It is better to leave your bike in a safe place than to have it towed after you are arrested for impaired riding.

Parents can

- Talk with your teens and explain that .08 BAC laws apply to adult drivers. Before they are 21, drinking alcohol is illegal because of Minimum Drinking Age laws, and driving after consuming any alcohol is illegal because of Zero Tolerance Laws in all States.
- Establish expectations that your teens will never drive impaired or get in a car with an impaired driver. Put a taxi company phone number in their mobile phones or install one of the many phone apps that will find a cab.
- Set a good example by establishing safe driving habits early.



States and communities can

- Conduct high-visibility enforcement programs (www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Enforcement++Justice+Services/HVE-implement) and increase their visibility to broaden their reach. (*Increasing Impaired-Driving Enforcement Visibility: Six Case Studies*, www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811716.pdf). Take advantage of national alcohol media campaigns during Labor Day weekend and in December.



- Work with youth groups, schools, and traffic safety, law enforcement, and public health agencies to explain the consequences of impaired driving and the benefits of choosing good alternatives.
- Compare your State's BAC testing and reporting system to national recommendations, and make administrative improvements as necessary. See *State Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Testing and Reporting for Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes: Current Practices, Results, and Strategies, 1997-2009* (www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811661.pdf) for practical steps to take.

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